

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1345
By Windle

A RESOLUTION to recognize William L. Needham on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, William L. Needham is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as Director of Schools for Overton County and has recently announced that he will be taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, born on August 26, 1945, William Needham is the son of Raleigh and Nola Mae Jernigan Needham, and the brother of John R. Needham of Harriman, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, William Needham graduated from Livingston Academy and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary educator, Mr. Needham believes the purpose of education is to give each student the opportunity to reach his or her full potential and that all who are a part of the education process should never forget that the most important people in the school system are the students; and

WHEREAS, during his outstanding career with the Overton County school system William Needham has achieved many goals, but he is especially proud of having accomplished the improvement of the curriculum at Livingston Academy, upgrading the music program with two band directors at the elementary school level, adding physical education and counselor positions at each school, and completing a county-wide building program at all schools from 2000 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, as Director of Schools, Mr. Needham helped establish a cooperative relationship among the Overton County Board of Education and city and county governments

while leading Overton County in meeting both state and federal accountability standards every year and observing the tremendous commitment on the part of teachers and staff to provide the students of Overton County with the best education possible; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of First Methodist Church, Mr. Needham serves as Chairman of the Church Council and is a member of the Choir; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in his community, William Needham is a member and past president of the Lions Club, member and president of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the United Way Campaign, charter member and president of the Exchange Club, and Chairman of the Stephens Center Board of Directors, in addition to having served a four year term on the County Commission; and

WHEREAS, William L. Needham exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Needham enjoys the loving companionship of his devoted wife Carolyn Langford Needham, a third grade teacher at Hilham School, and they are the proud parents of two successful daughters and sons-in-law, Julie Ruesewald and her husband Don, and Lynn Drew and her husband Jason, and the doting grandparents of three beloved grandchildren, Josh, Ryan, and Abby; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Needham has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to William L. Needham our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.